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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MUSCAT 000642

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/ARPI, INR/B

E.O. 12958: DECL: X6

TAGS: [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [MU](#)

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHY: HUNAINA BINT SULTAN BIN AHMED
AL-MUGHAIIRY

Classified By: William R. Stewart, Charge d'Affaires, a.i.
Reasons: 1.4 (b, d).

1. (U) Hunaina bint Sultan bin Ahmed al-Mughairy, OCIPED
Representative in New York
Born: October 13, 1948, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Current Responsibilities

2. (SBU) While she considers herself "retired" per a recent visa application, Hunaina has served both as the New York representative of the Oman Center for Investment Promotion and Export Development (OCIPED) as well as Commercial Attache to Oman's Mission to the UN, where her husband Fuad al-Hinai is Ambassador, since 1999. She has been an active participant in Oman's Free Trade Agreement negotiations with the U.S. in 2005.

New York State of Mind

3. (C) Mughairy's close ties to the United States stretch back for more than 30 years. She lived in New York City 1974-78 during her husband's first posting to the UN, and took the opportunity while there to complete her Masters degree at NYU. The Omani ambassador to the U.S. at that time was Ahmed Macki, currently the powerful Minister of National Economy, with whom she still has good relations. She developed a deep and abiding affection for New York, and actively campaigned in the 1990's for her husband's return there as UN Ambassador.

Economic Background

4. (C) When a Royal Decree in 1996 transferred responsibility for export promotion from the Commerce Ministry to the newly established OCIPED, then-Commerce Under Secretary (and current Minister of Sports) Ali al-Sunaidi hand-picked Mughairy, his advisor, to move to OCIPED as Director General for Export Promotion in an effort to staff it with Oman's "best and brightest." She burnished her reputation while at OCIPED by supplying the organizational and administrative skills that OCIPED's Executive President notably lacked. Even though by the late 1990's Mughairy was contemplating retirement to take advantage of a government downsizing effort, she was touted as a strong candidate to become Under Secretary or possibly even Minister in the future. (This was

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at a time when no women served at the Cabinet level, and only a couple served as Under Secretaries.)

5. (C) Before joining OCIPED in 1996, Mughairy previously served in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry as a Director of Industrial Planning (1985-1991) and as an Advisor to the Under Secretary for Industry (1991-1996), where she also worked closely with Commerce Minister Maqbool Sultan. She dealt with all of the Western embassies while at the Ministry, but appeared especially interested in promoting U.S.-Omani economic ties. As part of her portfolio, she served as deputy head of the Omani delegation that negotiated a bilateral textile agreement in 1993, and then headed the 1997 negotiating team that renewed it. She was likewise instrumental in promoting a bid by Dow Chemical to build a polyethylene factory in the coastal city of Sohar in the mid-1990's. Unfortunately, the bid was ultimately awarded to British Petroleum, though BP eventually backed out of the deal and the project was never pursued. She had had an earlier stint at the Ministry as Director of Industrial Loans (1979-1984) before taking a two-year break to join her husband at the Omani mission to the UN in Geneva.

Well Connected

6. (C) Mughairy's professional and personal contacts in the

Omani government are extensive. As noted above, she has worked closely in the past and remains in favorable standing with Commerce Minister Maqbool Sultan, National Economy Minister Ahmed Macki, Sports Minister Ali al-Sunaidi and OCIPED Executive President Salim Ismaily. Her husband, Fuad al-Hinai, is currently Oman's Ambassador to the UN. Her husband's brothers include a past ambassador to the U.S. (Farid al-Hinai) and Khalifa al-Hinai, a good contact of the Embassy who now serves as Chairman of the Board of Oman Gas Company and is technical adviser to the Minister of Oil and Gas. Her sister-in-law is married to the Minister of Justice, Mohammed al-Hinai.

Personal Data

17. (C) Mughairy has two children. Her daughter Farah lived in Connecticut for several years in the 1990's while attending college. Her son Farid earned a degree in the UK before taking a job with a British bank in Muscat. Apparently in response to Mughairy's ambition that he continue his education and pursue an MBA, Farid was hired in 2001 to work as an economic and financial officer for his father at Oman's mission to the UN, while he attended courses at Columbia University. As of January 2005, neither of the children were believed to still be in the U.S. At one time, Mughairy also had a sister residing in New York State.

18. (SBU) Mughairy speaks English, Swahili and Arabic, though admits being most comfortable in English. In addition to her MA from NYU, she has a Bachelors degree from the High Polytechnical Institute of Cairo, Egypt.

STEWART